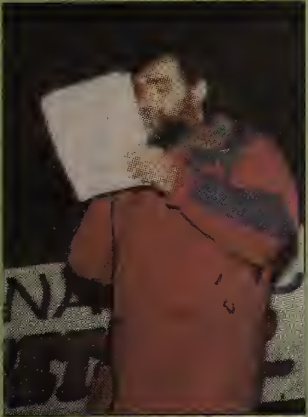


SPOKE

Conestoga College, Kitchener

MAY 3, 1999

What's Inside



As NATO protests continue, a Serbian student tells her story.

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Golf may not be as popular as we may think.

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Pocket Dwellers play Mecca.

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COMMENTARY

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Kids and guns don't mix

Take your stuff

By Janet Wakutz

When students leave the college, either for the summer or for good, Al Hunter, head of security, would like them to take their belongings with them.

He said there was a major problem with belongings left behind in student lockers last year.

At least 300 locks were cut off lockers and it was a lot of work to try and get items returned to their owners.

"I would like to encourage all students to empty their lockers at the end of the term," he said.

He added students shouldn't assume they will have the same locker when they return in the fall.

Property left in lockers can only be returned if the items are properly identified. Hunter said some people are not using the lockers assigned to them and that complicates the process of returning belongings.

After every attempt has been made to find the owners, Hunter said the items are distributed. Books are offered to the DSA, drafting equipment, calculators and any other items thought to be useful are offered to students with special needs.

Clothing in good repair is given to the Salvation Army and backpacks are donated to a scout troop.

"We try to make use of things," said Hunter, who added his first choice would be for belongings not to be left behind. Every attempt is made to get the items back to the owners. LASA students were involved last year in making phone calls to students to try and return items.

"If there is any other property around the campus (such as portable stereos or art equipment), I encourage students to take them with them," said Hunter, who would rather students didn't leave things at the college over the summer.



Students of Conestoga College's motorcycle driver training program have progressed from novices to confident riders in a couple of weeks. (Photo by Wayne Collins)



Dodging pylons was all part of the motorcycle training course offered at Conestoga.

(Photo by Wayne Collins)

Long-time Conestoga employee retires to pursue freelance computer projects

By Carly Benjamin

A Conestoga College employee of 27 years will be retiring June 18 to pursue a number of personal projects.

Sheila McLaren, co-ordinator and founder of the microcomputer administration program, plans to freelance in the area of Microsoft access computer applications.

The focus of the program McLaren developed provides a valuable blend of technical, systems and human relation skills necessary for the effectiveness of business and industrial operations.

It prepares students for a career in microcomputer administration, office administration, a provider of software support, or, as an applications specialist.

The two-year, six-semester program includes a four-week work placement at the end of the term, which provides the practical experience to complement the program.

Before developing the microcomputer administration program in 1983, formerly the office administrations program, McLaren taught in the secretarial program at the college.

McLaren said she switched programs because it was becoming evident traditional secretarial careers were disappearing, so she started the microcomputer administration program from scratch.

"There was a need to train students in the area of office management and extensive software application skills," she said.

McLaren reflected on her fondest memory at the college and said working with the students was the best experience.

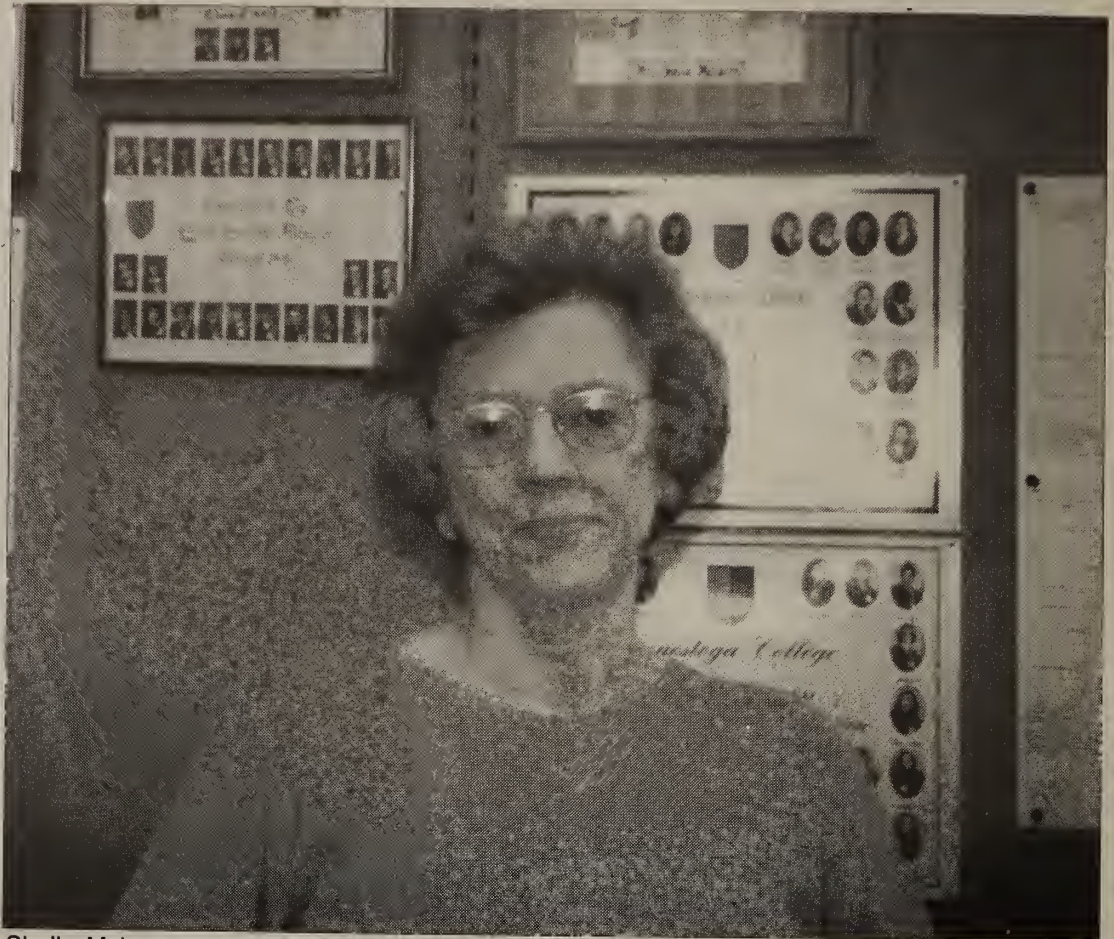
"I received the most enjoyment from helping students to believe in themselves," she said. "I watched them reach the potential they didn't think they could achieve."

In 1988, Conestoga sent McLaren to the United Arab Emirates where she developed curriculum for a secretarial program to be used in their colleges.

"I was the only female on the team," she said.

McLaren also received the first School of Business Faculty Award, an award given by the faculty to the faculty.

She is also nominated for the Aubrey Hagar Award. The winner will be announced at the end of April.



Sheila McLaren, co-ordinator and founder of the microcomputer administration program, will be retiring at the end of this semester.

(Photo by Carly Benjamin)

Local newspaper makes blunder with e-mail surtax 'April-fool' hoax

By Wayne Collins

April 19 proved to be April Fool's day for a local newspaper, which criticized the federal government and Canada Post for a plan to

implement a new e-mail surcharge.

While some Ontario newspapers saw through the Internet's April 19 hoax, the Cambridge Reporter published an editorial condemning the surcharge.

The hoax reported that, under proposed legislation, Canada Post would be attempting to bill e-mail users for "alternate postage fees."

The phony e-mail message referred to a fake Bill 602P, which would permit the federal government to pin a five-cent surcharge on e-mail users, by billing Internet service providers. They, in turn, would bill their customers.

The message also stated that "the proliferation of e-mail is costing Canada Post nearly \$23,000,000 annually in lost revenue."

Internet users would, therefore, pay a yearly average of \$180 if the bill were passed.

The Toronto Star's editorial department was also misrepresented by the message, which reported that the Star wrote the idea of an e-mail surcharge is "a useful concept whose time has come." This March 6 editorial never existed.

According to the message, Richard Stepp, a Toronto lawyer with an office at 216 Bay St., was fighting to stop the proposed legislation.

The Star later admitted Stepp didn't exist anymore than their surcharge editorial.

The Cambridge Reporter, how-

ever, published an April 20 editorial condemning the surcharge and Canada Post.

"It would be the last laugh, since Canada Post inefficiency was a prime reason Internet mail caught on so quickly," said Clyde Warrington, the Reporter's managing editor.

On April 23, the Reporter ran a story with the headline, "Internet hoax fooled us."

While the hoax tested the local journalism community, some students at Conestoga College said they knew little about it because of their busy schedules.

Michael Debssou, a first-year electronics technology student, said he didn't see the e-mail hoax but considered the Reporter's error "a little bit unprofessional."

Second-year computer programming analyst(CPA) student Carmen Hammoud, said the story should have been verified first, before it was reported.

"(They've) got a responsibility to check before they write something," said Hammoud.

Third-year CPA students, Travis Cornell and Ryan Giles, didn't read the fake Internet message but also said the Reporter's editorial was "not very professional."

"We might as well read the Enquirer if we're going to be reading rumours," said Travis.

Two second-year construction engineering students, Kevin Ross and Andy O'Brien, said they'd vaguely recalled hearing of the hoax but they didn't have much time to read the news.

In the April 23 story the Reporter quoted e-mail from a Rev. R.G. Skelding, that chided the paper for swallowing the phony "P" bill.

"Had you bothered to check," said Skelding, "you would have found that there is no such bill as 602P."

He said that bills brought to the House of Commons have the prefix "C" and senate bills are prefixed with an "S".

Toronto Sun columnist, Gary Dunford, said he wasn't fooled by the bogus e-mail message because of the phony bill, the fake lawyer and the misspelling of the word bureaucratic.

Meanwhile, Hammoud said journalists should not print stories just for the sake of selling papers.

"They should be held accountable when they write something like this," he said.

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STUDENT LIFE

NATO bombs hit oil refineries across Belgrade and Novi Sad

By Wayne Collins

A Conestoga College student was saddened to hear the April 17 news reports of NATO striking oil refineries and chemical plants in Belgrade and Novi Sad.

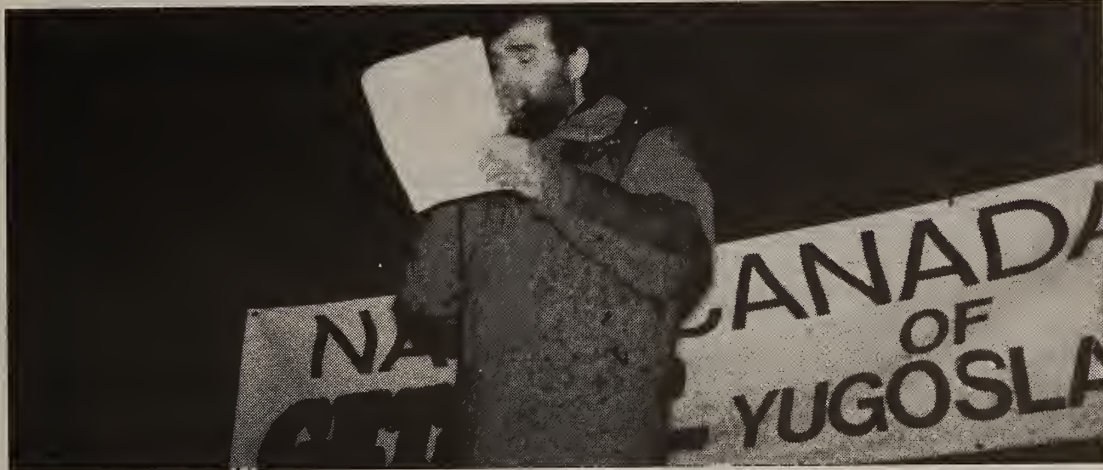
Ana Sajfert, a 20-year-old journalism student, lived in the suburbs of Novi Sad until she was 12 years old.

She says she considers the destruction of "this gorgeous city" a tragedy.

Novi Sad sits in eastern Europe, roughly in the centre of the province of Vojvodina. The city's importance to the NATO campaign lies in its strategic transportation routes.

Novi Sad is a junction of international highway and railroad transportation. Of the eight roads that pass through the city, the most important is the highway which originates in northern Europe and runs south by way of Budapest, passing through Belgrade and terminating in Athens, Istanbul and cities in the Near East.

Novi Sad railroad junction also radiates in six directions, the most important line originating in Istanbul and terminating in Budapest, Prague, Berlin, Warsaw



Davqor Milicevic speaks at the April 17 anti-NATO protest in Kitchener, calling for an end to the destruction in Yugoslavia. (Photo by Wayne Collins)

and Moscow.

This city, whose population is around 300,000 people, has been the target of much of NATO's bombing campaigns because of these routes.

Sajfert says she believes more than just a city is being bombed.

"Novi Sad is a being," she says. "It has a soul, a heart and a mind."

Sajfert says that, as a child, she never felt any prejudice, racism or hatred in Novi Sad.

Her Hungarian/German father and Slovenian mother, however, foresaw the disintegration of

Yugoslavia in 1991 and decided to leave.

"Nationalism began to escalate in Croatia," she says, "and then Kosovo, with the Albanians."

Sajfert, who revisited Novi Sad from Feb. 25 to March 15 this year, says no one there expected the NATO offensive then.

"The people's remedy is to stay positive and optimistic," she says.

Sajfert describes Novi Sad as the Paris of the Balkans, with its enchanting architectural designs, cultural monuments and plush green parks and beach.

"All the historical beauties preserved over centuries by the Serb folks, now lie in the hands of beasts," she says, referring to NATO.

Sajfert says she spoke with her best friend, who remained in Novi Sad, on the third day of the bombing.

"She said the university was closed that Wednesday, on the first day of the attack and she, like everybody else, just wants to get a break from this torture," says Sajfert.

Meanwhile, Sajfert worries

about her relatives who remain in Novi Sad, including her 70-year-old grandmother who suffers from Parkinson's disease and is without medication.

"She is immobile, spending her days and nights alone in a dark one-bedroom apartment, without electricity in Novi Sad," Sajfert says.

Her uncle, 40, was drafted three weeks ago and she hasn't heard anything more about him. Sajfert describes the American-led campaign as a "mad bully on the loose" and says Yugoslavian President Slobodan Milosevic lives in a world of darkness and despair.

"Everytime (he) opens his mouth, another 100 bombs detonate over Serbia," she says. "What can I think of him?"

Sajfert says she thinks NATO has made an absolute fiasco out of Kosovo. "(They) are more naïve than Serbs to have played into the hands of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) Muslim terrorists."

Sajfert says she may return to Novi Sad someday because she loves the city and its historical charms.

"It's Europe," she says, "How can (you) not want live (there)?"

Summer is busiest time for Conestoga print shop

By Lindsay Gibson

Just as the rush for printing final exams and award banquet programs is coming to a close, the Conestoga College print shop is getting ready for the summer months.

"It's the busiest time of year," says supervisor Vince Alviano as the college prepares for the academic year in September.

"The staff here are excellent," Alviano said. "They put in 110 per cent."

The print shop, which does all

the printing for all Conestoga campuses, is an integral part of the college.

Mail, courier service to satellite campuses, liquor and beer runs for the Waterloo campus dining room, cartridge supplies, audio visual supplies and paper for computer services are also handled by the three printers, one supervisor and one courier who comprise the print shop staff.

Alviano, who is also the manager of the college's women's soccer team, has worked in the print shop for 19 years and loves

it, he said.

"It's the students that keep you going. They are so grateful," he said.

The print shop sees a lot of students who need projects printed or bound, especially at this time of year.

Alviano said they bail a lot of students out of jams and do not ask for anything in return.

"We are here for the students," he said.

The print shop has a wall of cards and letters thanking them for their help.

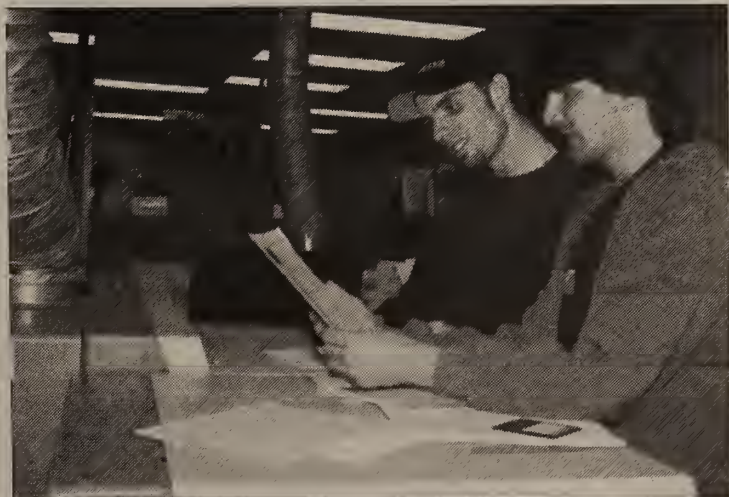
Alviano said some students have even brought the staff cookies and tarts to show their appreciation.

In mid-May, the print shop will deliver all Conestoga College acceptance letters to the post office, which will take two trips in a three-quarter ton GMC van.

Last year, \$160,000 in postage alone, not including bulk mailing, and \$141,000 in stationery were used by the print shop.

The college uses approximately two tonnes of paper per week at the Doon campus and about seven million sheets of paper go through the machines in the print shop each year.

"We do while-you-wait jobs, rush jobs, whatever is needed," said Alviano.



Second-year electronics engineering students Joe Sosnoski (front) and Rob Brazeau get a final project together with help from the print shop staff. (Photo by Lindsay Gibson)

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From Columbine to Canada, kids with guns pose threat

Columbine high school in Littleton, Colo., was the scene of a grotesque tragedy on April 20 when two gunmen terrorized students.

The gunmen were students who were reported to have committed suicide after opening fire on students.

The assailants were described as members of the "Trenchcoat Mafia" by other students who said the gunmen wore long black trenchcoats.

The death toll currently stands at 15 including the two gunmen.

How can one possibly fathom the loss, the shock and the horror of such a tragic event?

As I was sitting in the Spoke lab calmly laying out a page of the newspaper, high school students were terrorized and killed



Janet Wakutz

role in this kind of rampage.

I've begun to wonder though, if Canada is really that different from the United States.

In September 1998, Queen's Park passed Bill C-68 that lowered the minimum age for hunting with a firearm to 12 from 15.

Sure, they are supposed to take a training course and sure, they are supposed to have a supervisor with them.

I wonder if training 12-year-olds to use a gun a good idea?

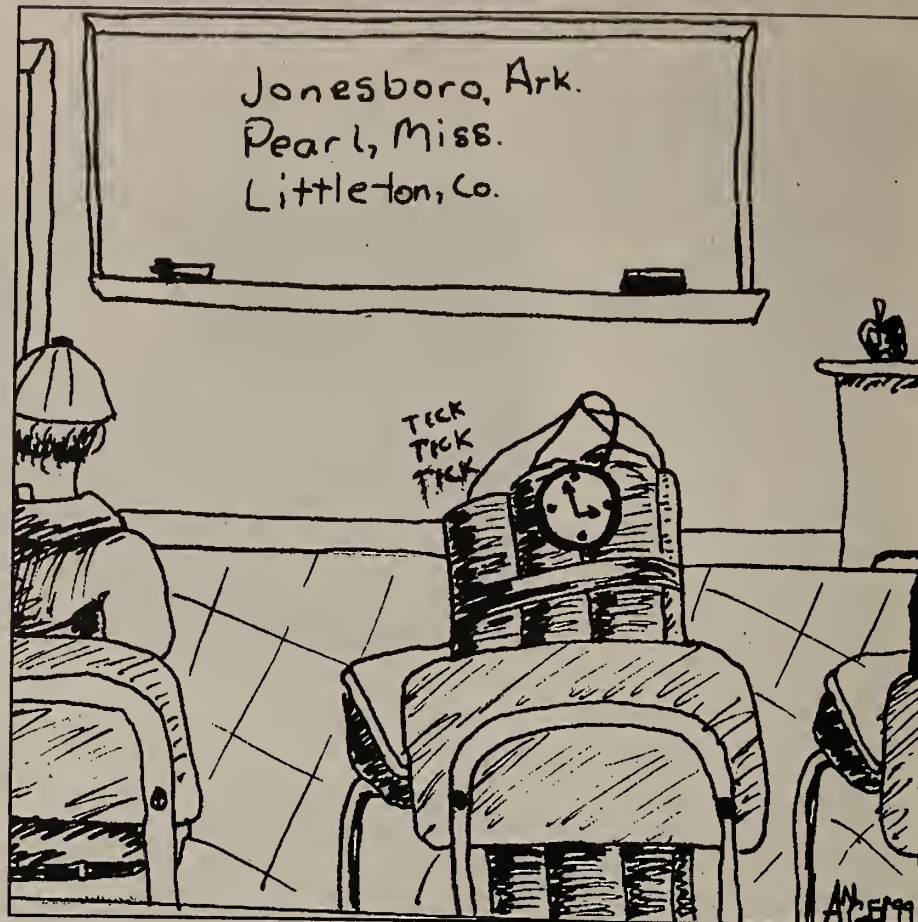
Have you ever seen a teenager fly into a rage? Have you ever heard them shout threats in the heat of their anger?

Of course they don't mean their threats.

But people do things in anger they would never do in a rational mind. Sometimes teenagers lose it.

If that child knows how to use a gun and has access to one, I hope my children and yours are nowhere nearby.

I pray none of us every truly knows how the community around Columbine high school in Littleton feels today.



Is training 12-year-olds to use a gun a good idea?

and parents were robbed of their children.

As I look at the faces of my own children, I shudder to think what the future might hold.

At least, I tell myself, we live in Canada where guns are not a common possession like cell phones.

As a parent, my urge is to keep my children in the safety of my gaze. I want to protect them and I would certainly, without a second thought, give my life for them. How then will I ever let them go off to college or university?

Imagine the fear parents of surviving Columbine students will experience every time their children leave their homes in the morning.

How many times will they wonder if their children will return?

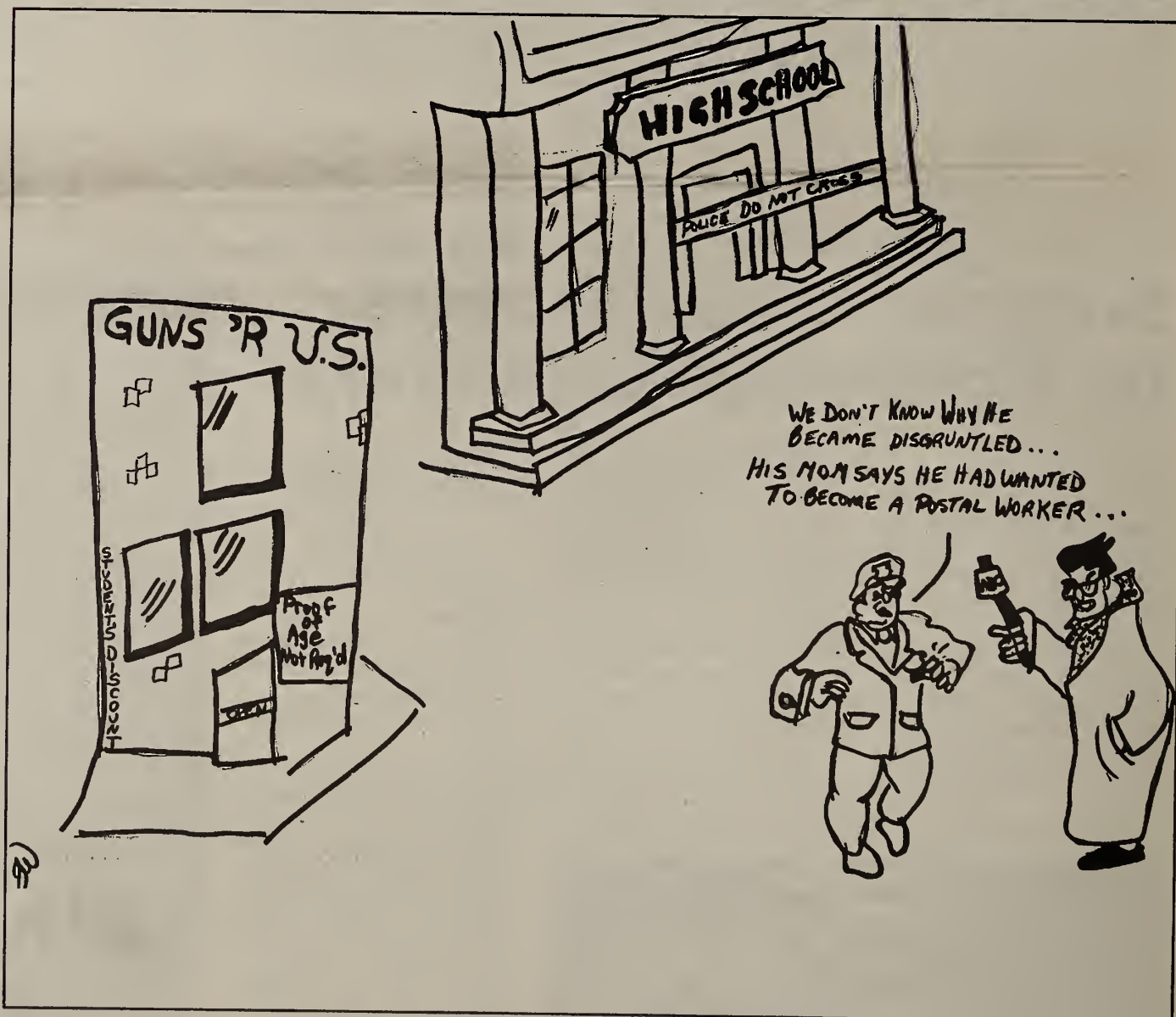
Not only have the gunmen robbed at least 15 students of their lives, they have robbed many more people of their security and their trust.

Reports say at least 18 people were taken from the Colorado school to hospital with gunshot wounds. One young woman suffered nine gunshots to her chest.

What could possibly cause such a disaster? I wonder what events preceded such a hellish deed.

How does a high school student become either so enraged or so desperate that he decides to kill others and/or himself?

Gun laws are tougher on this side of the border and access to guns obviously plays a



SPOKE

Keeping Conestoga College connected

SPOKE is published and produced weekly by the journalism students of Conestoga College.

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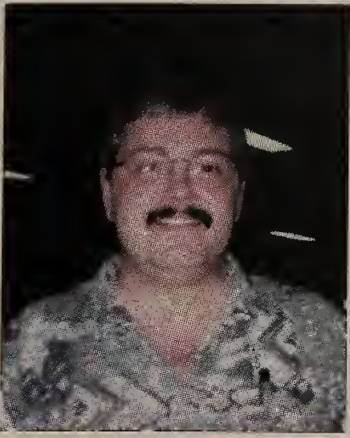
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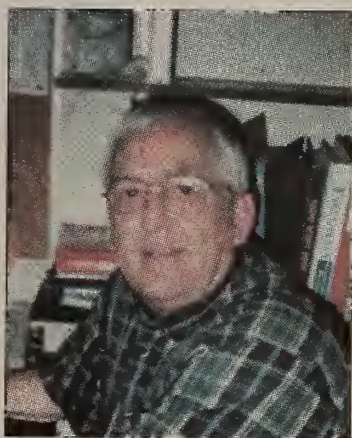
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Bill Dechert, third-year materials management.



Julia Maier, first-year graphic design and advertising.



Dan Fisher, broadcasting faculty.



Pam Hopwood, first-year journalism.



Suzanna Chow, first-year journalism.

Students respond to Columbine massacre

Violence must be addressed, say majority

Story and photos
by Julie van Donkersgoed

Schoolyard violence reached into homes across the world as the terrified faces of the victims and witnesses of the massacre at Columbine high school in Littleton, Colo., were splashed across newscasts and newspapers around the world. Wide-eyed teens expressed horror at the events they encountered while law enforcement officials numbly reported the unthinkable to a world demanding to know more.

Students polled in a random survey at Conestoga on April 22 agreed schoolyard violence is a problem that must be dealt with before it occurs again.

Amanda Petch, a second-year broadcasting student, says the incident was more frightening than anything, but that Colorado law is partially to blame.

"This tragedy happened in a state where they are fighting for the right to carry concealed weapons, but banning cell phones because kids might sell drugs," she said. "What are they thinking?"

Dan Fisher, a member of the broadcasting faculty, agreed with Petch's sentiment, saying that American society is partly to blame for such acts of violence.

"How do young people amass these things? You can't do that in Canada," he said. "You don't have kids developing a cache of arms to do things like that here."

Bill Dechert, a third-year materials management student, says he feels the shooting is terribly sad.

"I feel for the families and friends that will go through this for such a long time," he said.

Kathy Novak, a second-year business management student, calls the incident horrible and a reminder of how society is changing.

"Kids are so demoralized and their respect for human life is declining," she said. "The media portrayal is wrong. It gives ideas to other kids on how to get revenge on people who are mean to them."

Craig Maw, a third-year materials management student, says he feels kids are having difficulty dealing with their

anger and confusion.

"I don't know what kids like this are thinking, but obviously they don't have the capacity to deal with things in a rational way," he said. "We have to be on the lookout for these problem kids before they take out half their school."

Julia Maier, a first-year graphic design and advertising student, says she feels the incident is a

tragedy and wonders what drives people to do such things.

"What pushes people to that extreme? I almost felt sick to my stomach when I heard about it," she said.

Suzanna Chow, a first-year journalism student, says it is sad to see students acting in such a manner.

"When I was in high school I never thought of anything like

that," she said. "Obviously things have changed, for the worse."

Pam Hopwood, a first-year journalism student, describes the incident as disgusting.

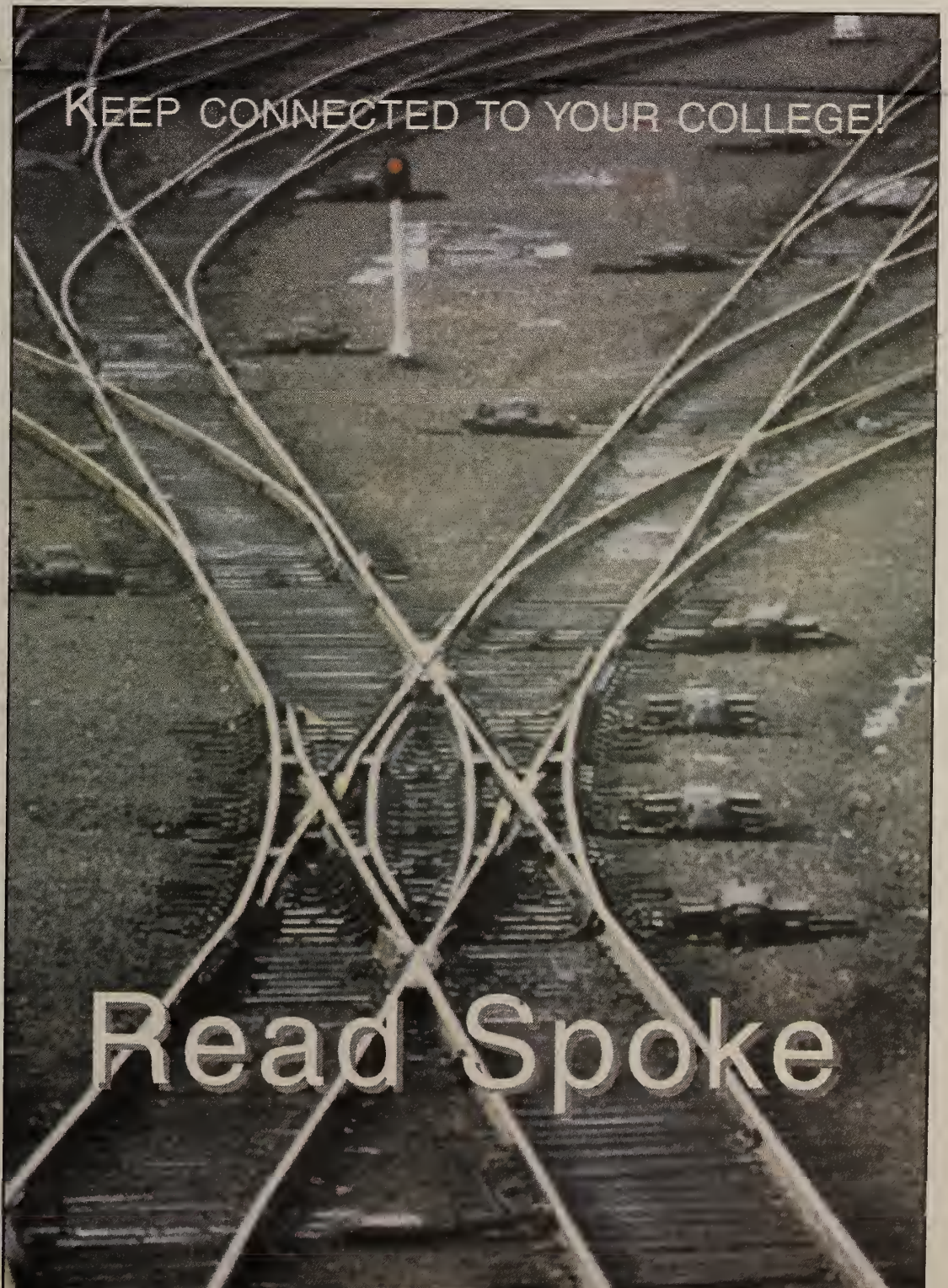
"I wonder how people can do this to other human beings if they are really people," she said. "I think it was their attitude afterwards. It was an act of hate, but they took joy in it."

COUNSELLOR'S CORNER: RELATIONSHIPS

Being a student and in a committed relationship can bring enjoyment and pleasure and also feel conflictual in terms of responsibilities and demands on time. A healthy relationship is more likely to withstand the pressures and changes that being a full-time student bring. A local Individual, Couple and Family Therapist, Barbara Pressman, developed a list of primary principles for a healthy relationship. Here are a few paraphrased ideas:

- Respect for the other person — no put downs, no insults, appreciation of different needs and beliefs and recognition of the possible need for separate as well as together time.
- Safety is of utmost importance — no emotional or physical violence. If there is even fear, there already is hurt.
- Caring behaviour and emotional support such as listening without judging or blaming and encouraging each other's interests.
- Inclusive decision-making regardless of earnings, compromising differences avoiding a win/lose result.
- Open communication including the capacity to share feelings, to be listened to attentively without giving advice (unless sought), and willingness to be assertive about expressing needs.
- Communication includes affection and sexual expression.
- These need to fit the needs of each couple and be mutually satisfying.

The counsellor at your campus is available to assist you with relationship issues.



Boom, echo or bust?

Statistics from RCGA report are indication golf may not be as popular as many believe

By Brian Smiley

Driving into the parking lot of the Doon Valley Golf Club, next door to Conestoga College, the parking spots are scarce and golfers are abundant. Everything seems to be in order. However, is it?

Golf is supposedly in a boom not seen since the 1960s when Arnold Palmer's "Army" was facing Jack Nicklaus, the "Golden Bear", every week in the Professional Golf Association's selected tour stop. However, results from a survey commissioned by the Royal Canadian Golf Association and the views of some in the industry differ widely.

"When I grew up, golf was an old man's sport," says Jeremy Moss, a professional at the Doon Valley Golf Club. "Now everyone's doing it. It's the thing to do."

In 1997, 347,000 new golfers took up the game. In contrast, 395,000 left, which results in a net loss of 48,000 golfers.

RCGA's 1996 report

Moss said over the past five years the rounds of golf played at the club have increased substantially and he believes the reason for that increase is golf's uniqueness compared with all other sports.

"You're not playing against anyone except yourself," he said, referring to the fact that every time players take to the course, they're trying to improve their score from their previous round.

The survey done by the associa-

tion in 1996 showed several startling results. While golf continues to marginally increase its popularity among males, the overall statistics are alarming.

In 1997, 347,000 new golfers took up the game. In contrast, 395,000 left, which results in a net loss of 48,000 golfers.

Part of the problem Moss sees is when the season begins the courses are swamped with people who have endured a long, cold Canadian winter indoors.

When the first sign of spring comes they unpack their golf gear and head to the overflowing courses to get a round in.

But then they drop the game, for many reasons. This year he sees a difference.

"People were more eager this year (at the beginning)," he said.

Maybe this will be the year that golf will begin to attract and keep new players from untapped demographic areas.

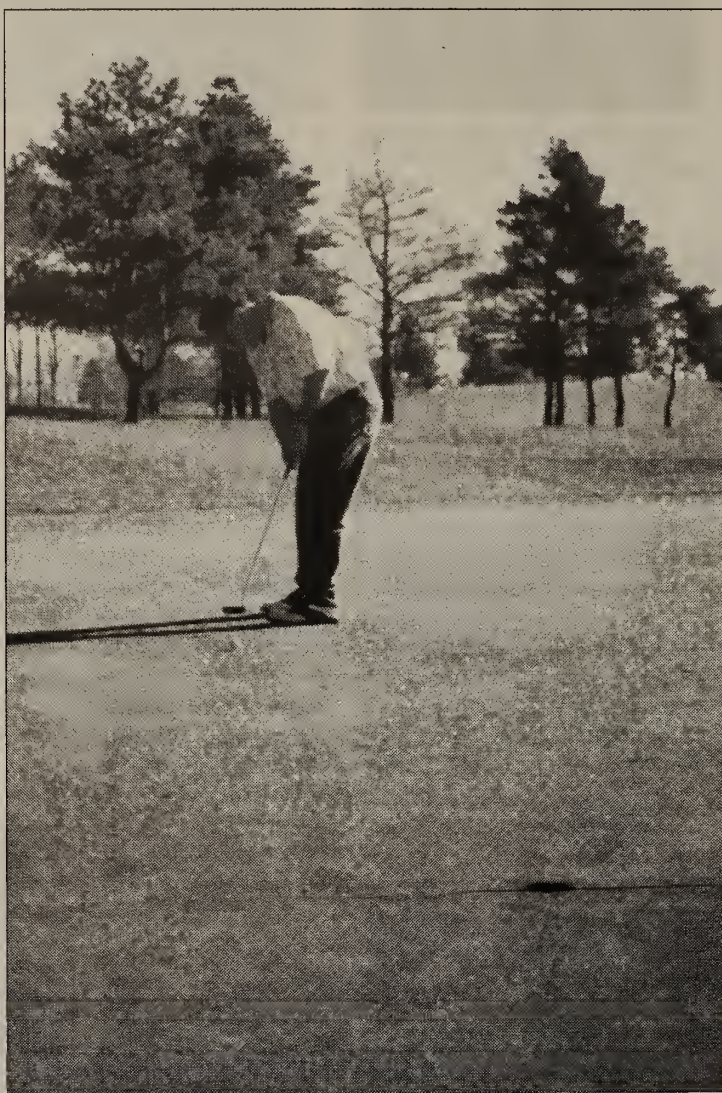
Women's golf is one area the industry needs to improve on.

In the association's survey women's participation rates were up only 0.3 per cent from 1996 to 1997.

Paul Stone, curator at the Golf Hall of Fame, Museum, Library and Archives at Glen Abbey in Oakville, said the sport is trying new angles.

"The golf industry is really trying for the women's market," he said.

He said those attempts are main-



Gerry Smith putts on the 11th green of the Delhi Golf Club on April 25. Senior golfers account for the highest participation rate among all demographics, a report released by the Royal Canadian Golf Association states.

(Photo by Brian Smiley)

ly in the clothing industry, where they believe they can tap into what women golfers want. Another area the industry is trying to conquer is equipment.

Moss said the prices in clubs and accessories needed to come in line to fit the needs of all players and he said that is happening.

"The prices of equipment have balanced out. It had to come down to where everyone could afford it," Moss said.

Some people in the sports world have compared the game of golf in the '90s, to tennis in the 1970s and '80s. Tennis seemed to be the up-and-coming sport for everyone, but then it bottomed out to the point where only a small percentage of the population still enjoys it.

Jim Neufeld, another professional at the Doon Valley Golf Club, doesn't see that happening.

"It will never slow down like tennis," he said. "It can't."

Neufeld said the reason is that the two sports are totally different. When you play tennis you're on the same court for a long period of time, but in golf you walk around the course and no two shots are the same.

Hall of Fame curator Stone agrees somewhat.

"I can eventually see interest dying down and people becoming inundated with it, but I think it's going to be okay for a while yet."

Only time will tell where golf fits in the sports spectrum.

National Hockey League playoff teams gear up for run at the Stanley Cup

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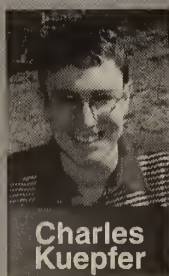
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With memories of Gretzky's retirement still fresh in our minds, the playoffs have taken centre stage in the world of professional hockey.



Charles Kuepfer

A total of 16 teams have earned the right to battle for the coveted Stanley Cup, the National Hockey League's most prestigious trophy.

Three Canadian teams are among the combatants, with Edmonton, Ottawa and Toronto trying to bring the Cup back across the border.

The Detroit Red Wings are coming off two consecutive

Stanley Cup victories and boast a team that could realistically win again, but will have a tough time doing so.

The western conference is probably stronger than the east, but come playoff time anything can happen.

Here's a look at how things could take place:

Eastern Conference

The number one seed in the east, the New Jersey Devils, should emerge from the east as champions and represent the east in the Cup final. Look for New Jersey, Buffalo, Boston and Philadelphia to win their first round series against Pittsburgh, Ottawa, Carolina and Toronto respectively.

The conference semifinal match ups would then be New Jersey(1) against Buffalo(7) and Philadelphia(5) against Boston(6).

New Jersey and Philadelphia would win their respective series and meet in the Conference final, with New Jersey coming out on top.

Western Conference

Look for the Colorado Avalanche and their talent-laden roster to win the west. With newly acquired Thereon Fleury and superstars like Joe Sakic, Peter Forsberg and Patrick Roy, Colorado will be tough to beat.

Dallas, Colorado, Detroit and St. Louis will survive the first round, beating Edmonton, San

Jose, Anaheim and Phoenix respectively.

Second-round match ups would then pit Dallas(1) against St. Louis(5) and Colorado(2) against Detroit(3).

Look for Dallas and Colorado to win their respective series and meet in the western final, with Colorado emerging as the winner.

Stanley Cup Final

As predicted, New Jersey and Colorado meet in the Cup final and look for it to be a long, hard-fought series. But the New Jersey Devils and their impressive 28 wins on the road during the regular season should emerge as this year's Stanley Cup champions.

Juried art exhibit not over the hill

By Elizabeth Sackrider

Despite being the oldest show in the region, the annual juried exhibition of artists was anything but stale. It was host to vivid concepts in painting styles and images.

Presented by the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, the event honoured six artists for their talent on April 22. Over 100 paintings were submitted and each was critiqued by a panel of judges.

"The jury process was very

exciting," said Sheila Garrett, co-president of the society of artists. "It was a real job to narrow down all those paintings."

The award in honour of Wadi El Mahdy was presented to Sherry Rice for her work *Dried Flowers*.

"I am very honoured because I have a lot of respect for Wadi El Mahdy," said Rice.

Her fuchsia monochrome of a dried flower arrangement used a salting process to create the patterns of the leaves.

When the salt is applied

the paint evaporates creating a speckled look.

"This painting was very loose and relaxed," said Rice. "It came through in one sitting."

Rice began painting seriously in 1995 and painted *Dried Flowers* under a time constraint.

"I prefer to capture feeling rather than realism," said Rice.

Gerrie Bea Joyce won the best of show using mixed media to create an expressionist-abstract painting entitled *Lightening in a Red Bag*. Using a secondary triad colour combination of

red-orange, dark purple and blue-green, the painting sizzles to life with bolts of vibrant yellow and reds across the canvas.

"I was thrilled," said Joyce, a visual art and desktop publishing teacher. "I was not expecting anything."

The simple images of *Lightening in a Red Bag* disguises the over two years of work that went into the painting.

"It took so long because it is so many layers and I usually work on 30 or so paintings at one time," said Joyce.

Joyce was professionally trained at Mount Allison University in New Brunswick. She stays in tune with art styles by going to galleries and attending workshops.

An honourable mention went to Esther Goldberg for her mixed media *Le Terrace*. Awards of merit went to Jean Newberry for her watercolour *Woodland Trail* and Julie Tusch Ofner for her mixed media *Against the Window Pane*.

Best of show was also presented to Vicki Brophy for the pastel *Looks Promising*.

Barrymore saves *Never Been Kissed*

By Eileen Diniz

Drew Barrymore stars as Josie Geller (a.k.a. Josie Grossie) in the new comedy *Never Been Kissed*. The film was written by first-timers Abby Kohn and Marc Silverstein and was directed by Raja Gosnell (*Home Alone 3*).

The film also stars Molly Shannon as Anita, David Arquette as Rob Geller, Michael Vartan as Sam Coulson, John C. Reilly as Gus, Leelee Sobieski as Aldys and Garry Marshall as Rigfort.

It starts out with Josie, a talented copy editor, getting her dream job, which is to work as a reporter for the Chicago Sun-Times. The problem is her wacky editor Rigfort wants an undercover series on high school life and he assigns Josie because she looks young. So now at age 25 she must go back to high school to figure out her story as well as to relive her terrible high school years.



Drew Barrymore makes her debut as a film producer. (Internet photo)

Josie, an adorable rejected dork, is so desperate to fit in she borrows her brother's car for the first day of school, but she still manages to look like a fool in her white jeans and gigantic scarf of feathers.

The cool kids laugh and make fun of her, but Aldys, the leader of the smart kids, becomes her friend immediately.

She hangs out with Aldys and her friends because that is where she has been accepted and where

she feels comfortable. Eventually, she forgoes her nerdy friends when her editor tells her she has to hang out with the cool kids because that is where the stories are. The story progresses a little from here, but it continues to be totally unrealistic and a little boring.

David Arquette stars as Josie's hip, carefree brother. He gives an okay performance, but nothing spectacular. He has returned to high school because he thinks it will help him fix his once promising baseball career. He also shows Josie "how to be cool" when he immediately becomes popular during lunch.

Molly Shannon is a great actress and comedian, showing it off well in *Never Been Kissed*. She stars as Anita, the Chicago Sun-Times office tramp and Josie's sympathetic co-worker.

The film was full of journalistic inaccuracies including surveillance vans that watched undercover reporters in the high school through micro cameras built into jewellery.

Never Been Kissed is unreal and so sloppy that it was lucky to have landed Barrymore, Shannon and Arquette. It is especially pathetic when Josie suddenly becomes popular after the hottest guy in school talks to her for absolutely no reason.

Josie's romantic lead, who is also her English teacher, becomes attracted to her even before knowing she is 25. It has the potential to be a scandal as well as a good court case.

Overall this film has its funny moments including Josie's flashback of her pimples and braces during high school. If you are looking for something smart, deep or realistic, however, this film is definitely the wrong choice.

Easy Rider



Students in Conestoga College's Motorcycle Driver training program continue practising on the Doon campus parking lot beside the woodworking building. In a few weeks they have progressed from novices to confident riders. (Photo by Wayne Collins)

Pocket Dwellers bring back the music

By Jeanette Everall

If you missed the Pocket Dwellers at the year-end concert you might be able to catch them on Much Music later this month, when they release their first video.

The group from Toronto recently received a grant to produce a single and a video and plan to release them both later this month, says the band's lead vocalist Nigel Williams (NI. Gel). They also have plans to head to the United States to play this summer.

"We can't ignore them," says Williams, referring to the music industry in the United States. "As much as we are Canadian and that will always be a part of us, I want to see the whole world."

Making it in the States is the key, says the group's tenor saxophone player, Dennis Passley (O-Dogg).

"Let it be known, if you make it in the States you can make it anywhere, as much as I hate to admit it," says Passley.

However, there is one inevitable thing for this band. They will have to accept being pigeon-holed. The only problem is, the band, which is made up of jazz players, DJ's, M.C.'s and funk musicians, is such a collage of sounds it's difficult to describe what kind of music they play.

"Even if they do give us a title, they'll have to come up with a new one," says band member Marco Raposo (Red). "There would be no one title that would fit us."

The fact there may never be a title to fit this band is something the band members have come to take pride in.

"One thing I've realized, just being in this band, everyone is about blurring the lines and genres of music," says Passley.



NI. Gel Williams of the Pocket Dwellers performs for a handful of students present at Mecca on April 16.
(Photo by Elizabeth Sackrider)

"It's not hip hop, it's not funk, it's not jazz, it's music. I think that's a really important thing to get out, just concentrate more on the music than just giving us a title."

Watching this band play on stage, it is obvious they are all about the music. Even with 12 people in attendance at Conestoga's year-end concert, the seven-member band played as if there was a full house. Their energy on and off stage is addictive; their funky jazz undertones and pizzazz makes it hard for any listener to sit still. What also becomes clear, watching this band perform, is that they not only play for the audience, but they play for each other.

Williams says it's about bringing the music back and making people enjoy the live music.

"Bring performance back. You don't have to have a huge budget to put on a good show with energy in it," says Williams. "Every time we're on stage, whatever could happen, we could be arguing right before the show, we always feel the music."

Playing good music is the bottom line for this group, but it wasn't always easy, says Williams.

"When we first got together, it was a challenge to make it fit and work," he says. "After we started playing weekly, it was about a month, two months and we were clicking."

Regardless of what sound this mesh of styles creates, the Pocket Dwellers will probably get their wish to rock all the continents because they love what they do.

"Music is life and life is music for everyone in the band," says the band's guitar player Christian McKibbon.



Vocalist NI. Gel Williams has the ability to rhyme off the top of his head or freestyle.
(Photo by Elizabeth Sackrider)



Guitarist Christian McKibbon has played guitar with the likes of Pat LaBarbara and Kirk Macdonald.
(Photo by Elizabeth Sackrider)



Tenor saxophone player Dennis Passley has worked with notable composer Don Thompson.
(Photo by Elizabeth Sackrider)